African Contingency Operations Training and Assistance Program (ACOTA)

21st Century Marines in Africa

Enhancing the peace support operations

capacities of African nations.

ACOTA Program Origin – Rwanda Genocide

- **Clinton Administration directs development of program to enhance African peacekeeping capacities. "Enable Africans to do African peacekeeping."**
- **Summer 1996 – African Crisis Response Force (ACRF) Concept**
- **December 1996 – Consultative trips to European and African Capitols. ACRI emerges.**
- **22 May 1997 – US/UK/France Cooperative Agreement**
- **Initial Funding in Fiscal Year 1997**
- **Bush Administration - ACRI evolves into African Contingency Operations Training and Assistance Program (ACOTA)**

ACOTA Strategic Objectives

- **Enhance the peace support operations capacity of African nations.**

- **Strengthen the building blocks of African peace support operations, to include:**

  - individual peacekeepers
  - PSO battalions
  - brigade and multinational force staffs
  - regional and sub-regional organizations

- **Contribute to Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI) goal of increasing global capacity by 75,000 peacekeepers.**

ACOTA's Work in Africa – Strengthening the Basic Building Blocks of Peacekeeping in Africa

- **Train individual peacekeepers, squads, platoons, companies and battalions in the field.**
- **Train and exercise battalion commanders and battalion staffs.**
- **Train and exercise PSO force commanders and their staffs.**
- **Conduct specialty PSO training as needed.**
- **Equip peacekeepers.**
- **Train PSO trainers.**

Current ACOTA Partners

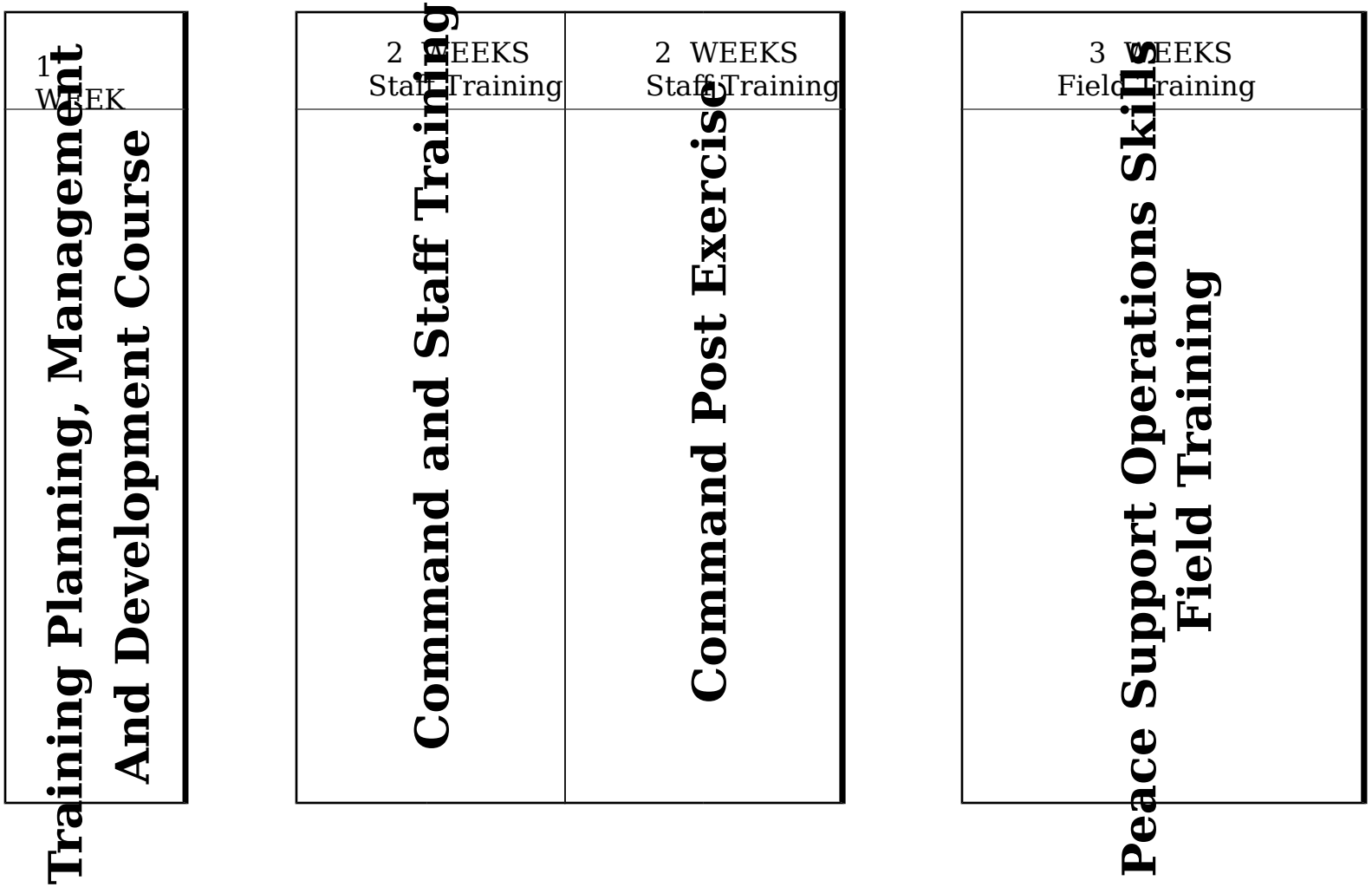
- **Benin**
- **Botswana**
- **Ethiopia**
- **Gabon**
- **Ghana**
- **Kenya**
- **Malawi**
- **Mali**
- **Mozambique**
- **Nigeria**
- **Senegal**
- **South Africa**
- **Zambia**
- **Discussions underway with other potential partners**

Long-term, multi-year sustained partnerships

Conditions for ACOTA Partnership

- **Serving under elected civilian government – transparent decision-making**
- **Absent human rights abuse record – vetting required by legislation**
- **Expressed interest in deploying peacekeepers**
- **Potential capacity to deploy PKO contingents**
- **Agreement to end-use, reuse, and security assurances for U.S defense goods and services**

ACOTA Typical Battalion Training Sequence


1 WEEK
Training Planning, Management And Development Course
2 WEEKS Staff Training
Command and Staff Training
2 WEEKS Staff Training
Command Post Exercise
3 WEEKS Field Training
Peace Support Operations Skills Field Training

ACOTA Core Elements – Training Tailored for Each Partner

- **Command and Staff Skills – Staff Training**

  --- Command and Control of PSOs
  --- Military Decision-Making Process
  --- Standard Operating Procedures for PSOs
  --- Civil Affairs and Civil-Military Operations
  --- UN, AU and ECOWAS Peacekeeping Operations

- **PSO Soldier Skills – Field Training**

  --- Individual and Collective Soldier Tasks
  --- Peacekeeping Skills
  --- Force Protection
  --- Field Medical and Individual Health
  --- Field Communications Skills

- **General Topics**

  --- Human Rights (to include Gender, Sexual Exploitation & Child Protection)
  --- Rules of Engagement
  --- HIV/AIDS Awareness and Prevention
  --- NGOs/IOs

B5 - B6
BB

ACOTA Training – Contractors?

- **ACOTA prefers U.S. military trainers**
- **Contractors bring some advantages.**
  - **Consistent, standardized training**
  - **Highly experienced, professional trainers with language skills**
  - **Professional programs of instruction**
  - **Reliable scheduling**
  - **Maximum flexibility to respond to partner nation needs**

ACOTA Equipment Program

- Trainer Equipment Package – enhance indigenous PSO training capacity
- Battalion Trainee Equipment Package – equip ACOTA trainees
- Battalion Deployment Equipment Package (Managed by GPOI) – equip deploying battalions

ACOTA Training Operations Tempo

- **FY04**
  - **Staff and field training for 12 battalions**
  - **Staff training for 2 brigade staffs (Kenya and Ethiopia)**
- **FY05**
  - **Staff and field training for 20 battalions**
  - **Staff training for 1 brigade staff**
  - **Multinational Command Post Exercise**
- **FY06 (projected)**
  - **Staff and field training for 24 battalions**
  - **Specialized Unit training for 3 units**
  - **Staff training for 2 brigades**
  - **Multinational Command Post Exercise**

ACOTA – Engagement Opportunities

- **Support ACOTA training events with mentors.**
- **Take training responsibility for one or more ACOTA partners.**
- **Support ACOTA specialized unit training.**

Peacekeeping Deployments by ACOTA Partners

• **Benin**	**Guinea-Bissau** (1999), **Liberia** (2003), **Cote d'Ivoire** (Ongoing)
• **Ethiopia**	**Burundi** (Ongoing), **Liberia** (Ongoing)
• **Gabon**	**Central African Republic (Ongoing)**
• **Ghana**	**Sierra Leone** (Ongoing), **Liberia** (Ongoing), **DRC** (Ongoing),
• **Kenya**	**Lebanon** (Ongoing), **Cote d'Ivoire** (Ongoing)
• **Mali**	**Burundi** (Ongoing), **Ethiopia-Eritrea** (Ongoing)
• **Mozambique**	**Sierra Leone** (1998), **Liberia** (2003)
• **Nigeria**	**Burundi** (Ongoing)
• **Senegal**	**Sierra Leone** (Ongoing), **Liberia** (Ongoing), **Darfur** (Ongoing)
• **South Africa**	**CAR** (1997), **Sierra Leone** (2004), **DRC** (Ongoing), **Cote d'Ivoire** (Ongoing), **Liberia** (Ongoing), **Darfur** (Ongoing)
	DRC (Ongoing), **Burundi** (Ongoing)

Excerpt from letter to George Humphries (LTC, USA, retired), ACOTA Instructor

December 2004

The majority of our tasks are escorting, patrolling and stabilizing throughout Liberia. We are serving the people based on the things you taught us. Your teaching is fundamental and important to our operations. I just wanted to thank you a lot for the remarkable knowledge that we got from ACOTA.

LTC Delelegne Sintayehu, ENDF, UNOMIL (ACOTA training July-August 2004)

Excerpt from letter to John Goodnow (COL, USA, retired), ACOTA Instructor

December 2005

The situation in Darfour is very tense. On 28 Nov rebels ambushed one of my platoons that was on patrol. Four of my men were badly wounded by bullets. We are adapting to the situation. I am very happy to tell you that the training we received from the Americans at Thies is very appropriate for the situation in Darfour. Thank you for the training and give all my thanks to your colleagues.

Commandant NGOM, Senegal Battalion Commander, AMIS II (Darfur) (ACOTA training October 2005)